

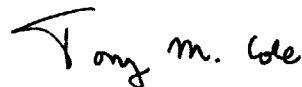
**REMARKS**

Applicant requests that the above amendments be entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.33. 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(b) states the following: "Amendments filed on or after the date of filing a brief pursuant to § 41.37 may be admitted: (1) To cancel claims, where such cancellation does not affect the scope of any other pending claim in the proceeding, or (2) To rewrite dependent claims into independent form." The present amendment proposes rewriting dependent claims 8, 13, and 15 into independent form. The present amendment further proposes canceling claims 1-4, 9-11, 14 and 16-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Since the present amendment merely proposes rewriting dependent claims into independent form and canceling claims, it may be properly entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(b). Entry of the present amendment is, therefore, respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/816,333  
Attorney's Docket No. F0691

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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